



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Amwal, QFC Authority and QBA host third Networking Event for Financial Professionals**

*Amwal, Qatar Financial Centre Authority and Qatari Businessmen Association to hold third event attracting participation from local and regional financial community*

**Doha, 28 October 2007** – Following two very successful events in November 2006 and February 2007, Amwal, Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) Authority and Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) will hold their third networking event on 5 November at the Four Seasons hotel in Doha for invited guests and experts from the local, regional and international financial communities.

The event coincides with the Gala dinner of The Economist Financial Leaders Forum, whose conference takes place the following day. Participants in the Forum have been invited to the networking event.

Geared towards the professionals of the financial sector and those in senior financial positions in the wider business community, the Networking Event for Financial Professionals will be addressed by Sheikha Hanadi Nasser Bin Khaled Al Thani, Founder and Chairperson of Amwal, and attended by a senior editor from the Economist magazine. Amwal, QFC Authority and QBA each invite clients and other professional contacts to participate, offering an opportunity for financial professionals to share the information, knowledge, relationships and expertise that will help build and sustain a solid financial services industry in Qatar and in the wider region.

“The Networking event for Financial Professionals has fulfilled the aim of establishing a common platform for financial experts to share and discuss industry trends, future strategies and financial infrastructure” said Sheikha Hanadi Nasser bin Khaled Al Thani, Founder and Chairperson of Amwal.

Sheikh Faisal Bin Qasim Al Thani, Chairman of the Qatari Businessmen Association added “The networking event has proved to be perhaps the most well attended of its kind held in Qatar both in scale and in terms of the cross section of businesses that are represented. The feedback from the business sector has been very positive.”

Stuart Pearce, CEO and Director General of the Qatar Financial Centre Authority also said “We are delighted to see how well the networking event has gathered momentum. The firms we are licensing are looking for a financial meeting place in which they can exchange views with a broad mix of people and perhaps even build business relationships with, and we are therefore very pleased to be a partner in this initiative.”

The Networking Event for Financial Professionals planned to take place 3 times a year, is by invitation only, and will be customized to meet and fit the needs of the professionals that are expected to participate.



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## **Notes to Editors**

### **Amwal**

Founded in 1998, Amwal is the first investment company to be licensed by the Central Bank of Qatar operating in two lines of business; investment banking and asset management. The firm has launched the first investment portfolio and the first mutual fund investing in the Doha Securities Market and underwrote the first non-Qatari Initial Public Offering in the country. Amwal has one of the largest investment teams in Qatar, employing a growing team of talented professionals. The firm benefits from a strong shareholder base comprising of Shuaa Capital, Qatar Foundation, Qatar National Bank, Qatar Navigation and prominent Qatari individual shareholders

### **Qatar Financial Centre**

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) is a financial and business centre established by the Government of Qatar and located in Doha. It has been designed to attract international financial services institutions and major multi-national corporations and to encourage participation in the growing market for financial services in Qatar and elsewhere in the region. The QFC will operate to international standards and provide a first class legal and business infrastructure for those operating within the QFC. The QFC was created by Qatar Law No.(7) and has been open for business since 1 May 2005.

### **QFC Regulatory Authority**

The QFC Regulatory Authority is an independent regulatory body established by Article 8 of the QFC Law. It regulates firms that conduct financial services in or from the QFC. It has a broad range of regulatory powers to authorize, supervise and, when necessary, discipline firms and individuals. The QFC Regulatory Authority regulates firms using principle-based legislation of international standard, modeled closely on that used in London and other major financial centers. The Regulatory Authority is currently receiving applications and granting authorisations.

### **QFC Authority**

The QFC Authority is the commercial, administrative and legislative body responsible for driving the commercial strategy of the QFC and for developing relationships with the global corporate community and other key institutions both within and outside of Qatar.

### **The QFC Civil and Commercial Court and QFC Regulatory Tribunal**

The QFC Civil and Commercial Court and QFC Regulatory Tribunal were launched in February 2007. The President of the Court is Lord Woolf, formerly Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales. The Court is modelled on the internationally respected Commercial Court in London. In the event of disputes in matters of law, it will be the final arbiter. The Regulatory Tribunal has been established to hear and decide upon appeals from decisions of the QFC Regulatory Authority and other QFC agencies. Its Chairman is William Blair, QC. Both the President and the Chairman are supported by Judges who have held the highest judicial offices in their own jurisdictions.

### **Qatari Businessmen Association**

Under the auspices and progressive guidance of H.H. the Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) was founded by the ministerial decree no. 14 for the year 2002 as a non-governmental, non-profitable organization. The founding members and all other members of QBA share the same vision of H.H. the Emir in creating a diversified, sustainable and resilient economy. Knowing that the private sector is a main pillar for a robust economy our association serves as a strong catalyst that offers a solid foundation for the economic development of Qatar's private sector and provides a forum for idea



exchange. Together, we aim to be a major vehicle, consensus builder and advocate for a thriving economic climate in the State of Qatar.

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